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(54) Title: **HIGH LYCOPENE TOMATO VARIETIES AND USE THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to hardy tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) varieties, homozygous for the dark green (*dg*) gene, producing fruit comprising an average lycopene content at least two fold its content in fruit of currently available commercial tomato varieties, wherein the varieties are adapted for growth on a commercial scale and the fruit crop maintains the average high lycopene content. The present invention further relates to the use of said varieties for the production of tomatoes for the fresh and processed fruit markets as well as for the production of lycopene and products comprising same.